

## Message Text

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63

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-04 ISO-00 OPR-01 NIC-01 OMB-01 CIEP-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-01 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 COME-00 EB-04

LAB-01 SIL-01 /068 W

----- 124927

R 251610Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6043

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, GR

SUBJECT: LABOR: STRIKE VIRUS IS CATCHING

REF: ATHENS-7565

1. AN ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE LABOR ORGANIZATION REPRESENT-  
ING ATHENS AREA EMPLOYEES OF A LEADING GREEK BANK "THE  
IOANIAN-PEOPLES BANK", ASSERTED THAT EMPLOYEES WILL  
STAGE A TWENTY-FOUR HOUR PROTEST STRIKE COMMENCING  
OCTOBER 26. STRIKE CALLED BECAUSE MANAGEMENT ALLEGEDLY  
REFUSING PROVIDE ITS EMPLOYEES WITH SIMILAR BENEFITS  
TO THOSE AFFORDED TO EMPLOYEES OF AT LEAST TWO OTHER  
MAJOR GREEK BANKS. ANNOUNCEMENT STATED THAT DESPITE  
MEDIATION EFFORTS OF NATIONAL LABOR CONFEDERATION  
(GSEE), AND MINISTRY OF LABOR, MANAGEMENT STILL  
REFUSES TO HONOR EMPLOYEES' DEMANDS.
2. MEANWHILE, A FOUR-HOUR WORK STOPPAGE TOOK PLACE AT  
THE LARGE ATHENS PRIVATE PRINTING ESTABLISHMENT "PAPIROS" AIMED  
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AT SECURING A THIRTY PERCENT WAGE INCREASE FOR ITS EMPLOYEES.

ADDITIONALLY, EMPLOYEES OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF ATHENS MET OCTOBER 25 TO DISCUSS "UNEQUAL TREATMENT" AFFORDED THEM VIS-A-VIS EMPLOYEES OF LABOR MINISTRY AND VARIOUS DISTRICT GOVERNMENTS (NOMARCHIES) RELEVANT TO SPECIAL WORK REQUIREMENTS DURING PRE-ELECTORAL AND ELECTORAL PERIOD. SPOKESMAN FOR MUNICIPALITY EMPLOYEES STATED THAT DECISION WILL BE MADE SHORTLY WHETHER TWENTY-FOUR HOUR PROTEST STRIKE WILL BE CALLED TO DEMAND EQUAL TREATMENT.

3. HIGHLY VISIBLE PRINTERS STRIKE (REFTEL) WHICH RESULTED IN DISAPPEARANCE OF MOST NEWSPAPERS FROM ATHENS SCENE FOR SEVERAL DAYS THIS PAST WEEK, HAS APPARENTLY STIMULATED FURTHER SPREADING OF STRIKE VIRUS. WHILE TO SOME DEGREE SUCH ACTIVITY SHOULD BE EXPECTED AFTER SEVEN YEAR DROUGHT WHEN STRIKES PROSCRIBED, IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE THAT CURRENT RASH OF STRIKE ACTIVITY MAY REFLECT SHORT-TERM PERCEPTION BY STRIKERS THAT CURRENT CARETAKER GOVERNMENT PROBABLY LESS LIKELY THAN ITS POST-ELECTION SUCCESSOR TO USE PUBLIC PRESSURE OR ENGAGE IN STRONG-ARM NEGOTIATING TACTICS TO PREVENT OR CURTAIL STRIKES. IN ANY EVENT, IT IS LIKELY THAT THE FUTURE WILL WITNESS MORE -- RATHER THAN FEWER -- EXAMPLES OF THE STRIKE PHENOMENON.

KUBISCH

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## Message Attributes

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